

Abstract of the Disclosure

A system and method for controlling fingerprint processing in a media network via an efficient protocol. The method includes determining, at a headend node, terminal node characteristics of a media network. Then, based on the determined terminal node characteristics, an algorithm and one or more control parameters are selected for processing a fingerprint. The selected algorithm and one or more control parameters are downloaded to a terminal node. The terminal node uses the algorithm to extract a fingerprint and then sends it back to the headend node for verification.